

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

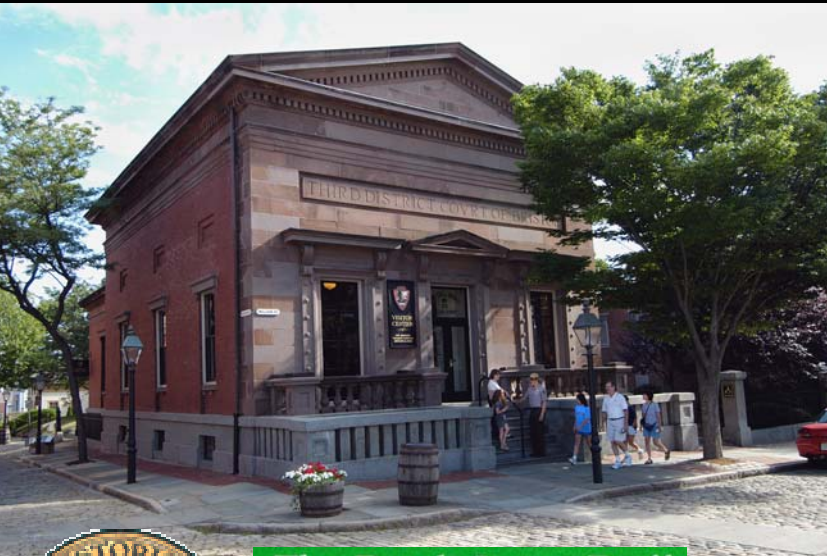


## Fiscal Year 2003 Report



**New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park helps to preserve, protect, and interpret certain districts, structures and artifacts located in New Bedford... associated with the history of whaling and related social, economic and environmental themes for the benefit and inspiration of this and future generations...**

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



The Rotch-Jones-Duff  
House & Garden  
**Museum**  
New Bedford, Massachusetts



New Bedford  
Historical



...These efforts will be undertaken in partnership with the City of New Bedford, local and regional, institutions and the Iñupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska

—General Management Plan for New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 2001



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Through partnerships...New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park supports the preservation of the historic landscapes, structures, and museum and archival collections in New Bedford associated with the history of whaling.**

*—General Management Plan*



**Completed the  
final masonry  
work on the  
Park  
Visitor Center**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Began planning and design for the Corson Building**



**WHALE will donate the building to the National Park Service and it will become the park's education and public program facility**





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



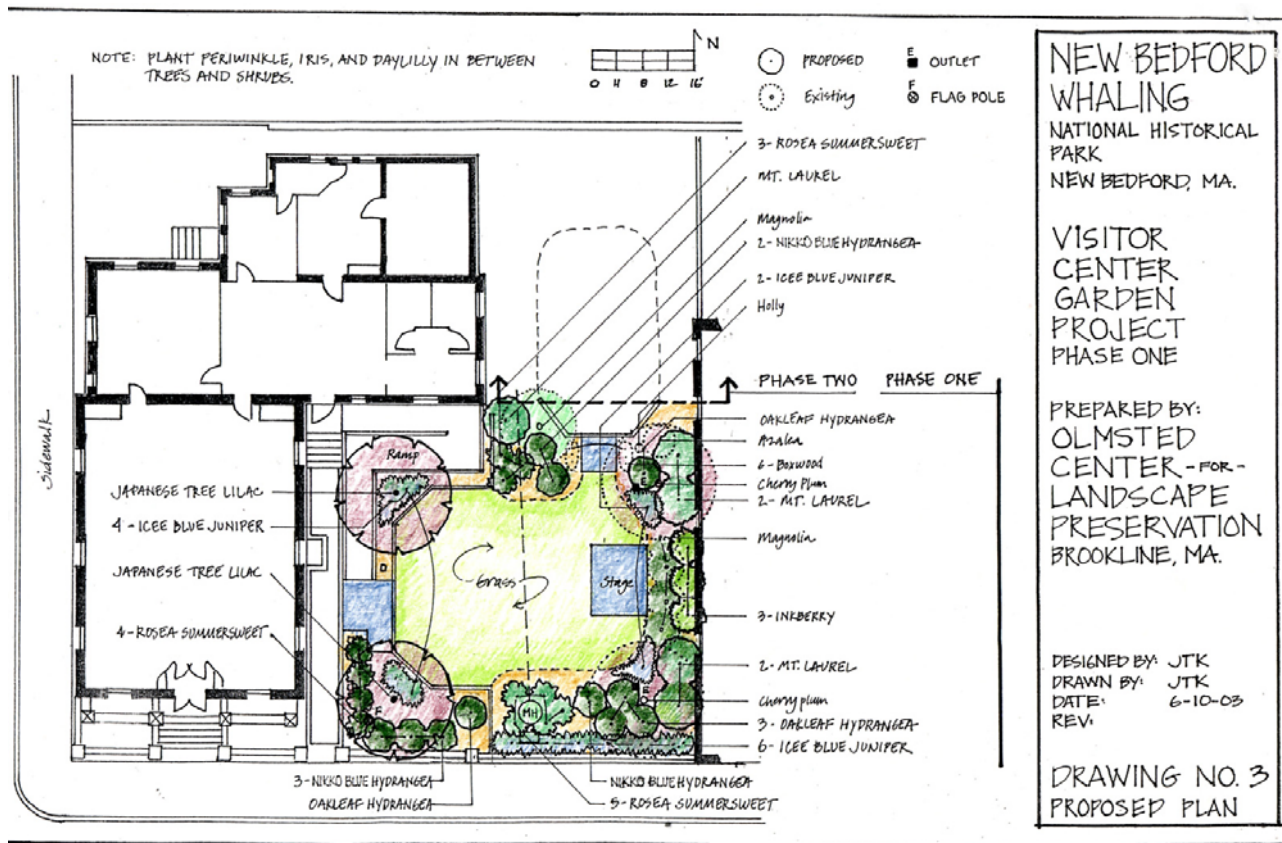
**Provided support for selected bricks and mortar projects undertaken by the City within the historical park**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Worked with the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation to develop a landscaping plan for the garden





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Continued support for the archives and operation of  
the New Bedford Historical Commission**

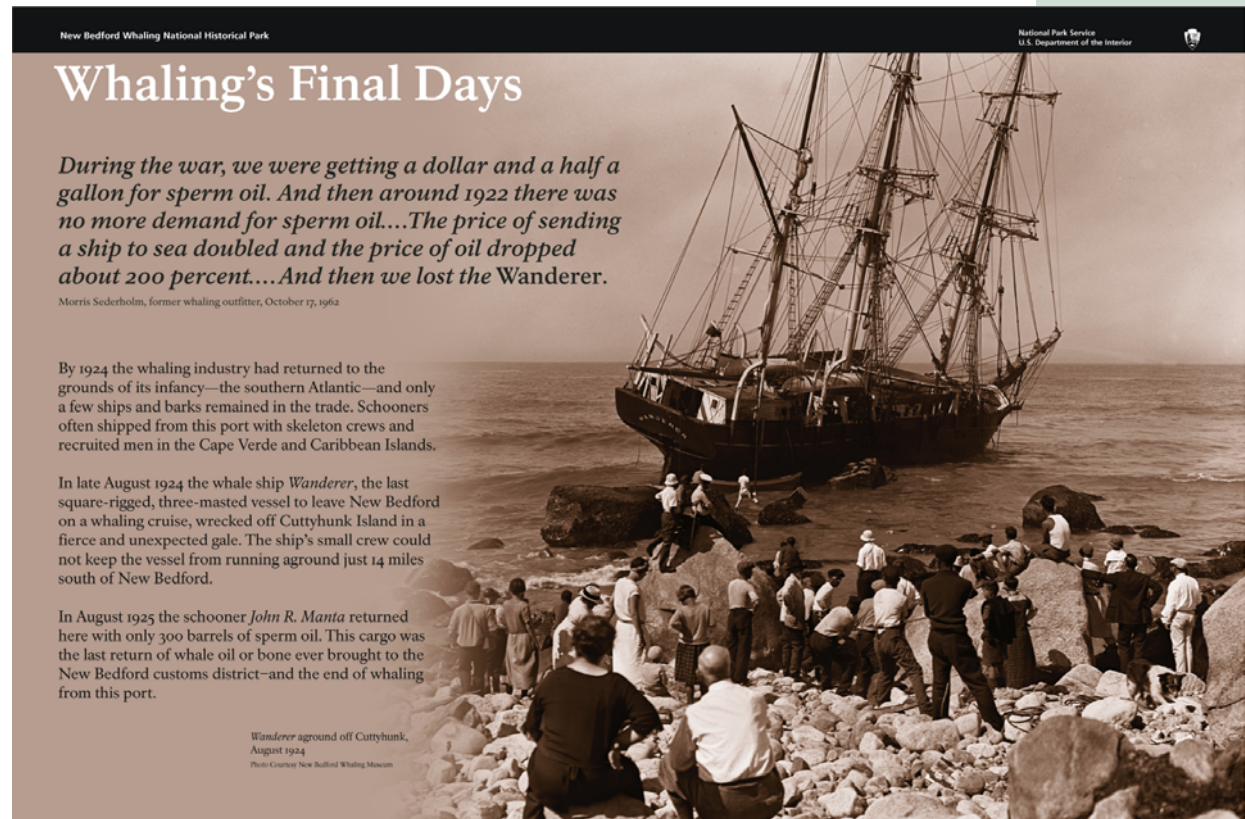


# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



The Park collaborates with a wide range of institutions...to promote the delivery of high quality, interpretive, cultural, and educational programming to the general public. —*General Management Plan*

Designed 42 new interpretive “wayside” panels for installation by the 2004 summer visitor season

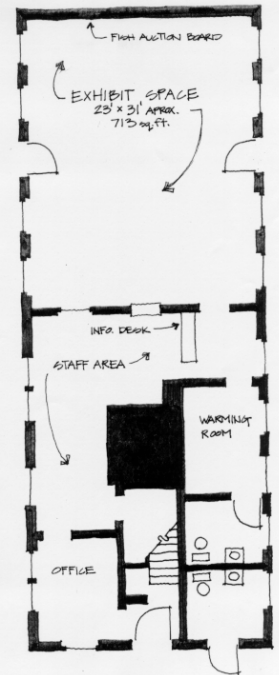




# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Designed an exhibit on the history of the Wharfinger Building and New Bedford's commercial fishing industry for installation by the 2004 summer visitor season**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Helped to staff the Wharfinger Building – keeping the building open on weekends throughout the summer**





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Volunteers in Parks (VIPs)

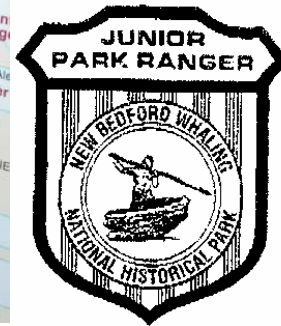


**Sponsored a comprehensive training program for new and veteran volunteers. This year, 70 volunteers provided 6,000 hours of service and enhanced visitor understanding through 200 walking tours for 2,000 visitors.**

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Future Stewards of our Heritage



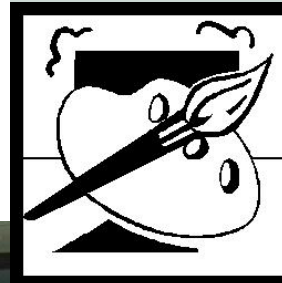
**Engaged 700 young people in an exploration of history through the park's Junior Ranger & Art Ranger Programs...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...worked with the community's young people  
through the Speech Academy and Teen Arts  
Coalition programs...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Conducted programs for over 1,200 students





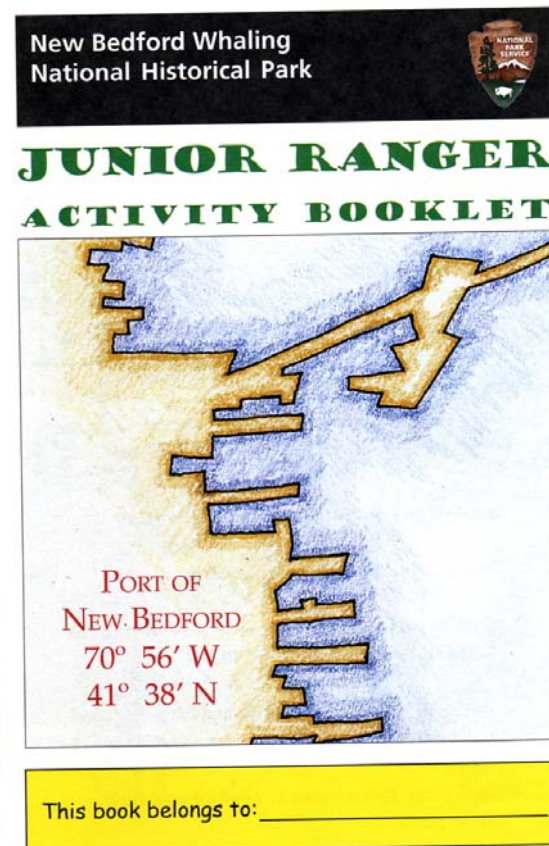
# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Reached out to  
local teachers  
through the  
collaborative  
*Portraits of a Port*  
Summer institute**









# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Visitor pathways to destinations within the city are safe and easy to navigate. Virtual pathways guide visitor to well designed and developed destinations on the internet that are easy to find and use. --*General Management Plan*



Installed traveler information station signs on 195 and 140 – now broadcasting on 16.10 AM on your radio dial...

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...Expanded the Park's in-depth website and linked the visitor information desk to the internet.**



**[www.nps.gov/nebe](http://www.nps.gov/nebe)**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Visitors understand the global dimensions of the city's whaling industry and maritime trades...including...the diversity of cultures associated with the industry, and its relationship to Arctic exploration and Native Alaskan cultures. —*General Management Plan*



Traveled to Barrow to forge new connections and initiate new projects, including publications and research...

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...Assisted park partners with projects funded through the Department of Education *Education Through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Act*



Helped to host visiting performers from Alaska and Hawaii...



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...Who appeared with local performers in schools and for the public...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**Traveled with park partners to the Azores at the invitation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to forge new connections and initiate new projects...**





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...Including oral history documentation, an exhibition and a video through a project called *Portraits of Two Whaling Ports: An International History Project*



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park fosters a climate in which community initiatives and collaborations are encouraged.**

*—General Management Plan*



**With the support of local cultural councils, the convention and visitors' bureau and Eastern National, supported community-focused concerts and maritime craft demonstrations...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



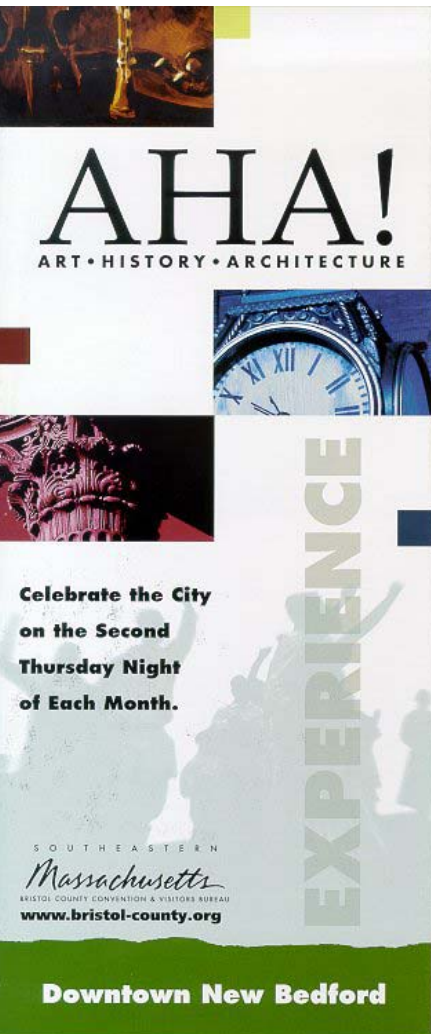
**...provided support and helped to sponsor major events in the park.**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



Provided support for AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) -- Downtown New Bedford's monthly arts & culture night





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## FY 2003 by the Numbers

**Operating budget - \$626,900**

**Staff – 6 full-time, 2 summer**

**Park visitation – 315,000**

**Orientation movie – 33,000**

**AHA! Project – 20,000**

**70 volunteers – contributing 6,000 hours**

**200 walking tours for 2,000 visitors**

**The park contributes to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding of historic resources related to the social, economic, and environmental history of whaling and their associated themes, and fosters stewardship of these resources through a network of private and public partners.**

*—General Management Plan*

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Fiscal Year 2004 – The Work Ahead





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## FY 2004 by the Numbers

|                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Anticipated operating budget</b> | <b>\$626,900</b>   |
| <b>Minus Custom House Rent</b>      | <b>- \$ 14,000</b> |
|                                     | <b>\$612,900</b>   |

**Anticipated staff – 6 full-time, 1 or 2 summer**

**Operating Budget recommended in General  
Management Plan - \$1.4 million**

**Staff recommended in General Management  
Plan – 16.5**

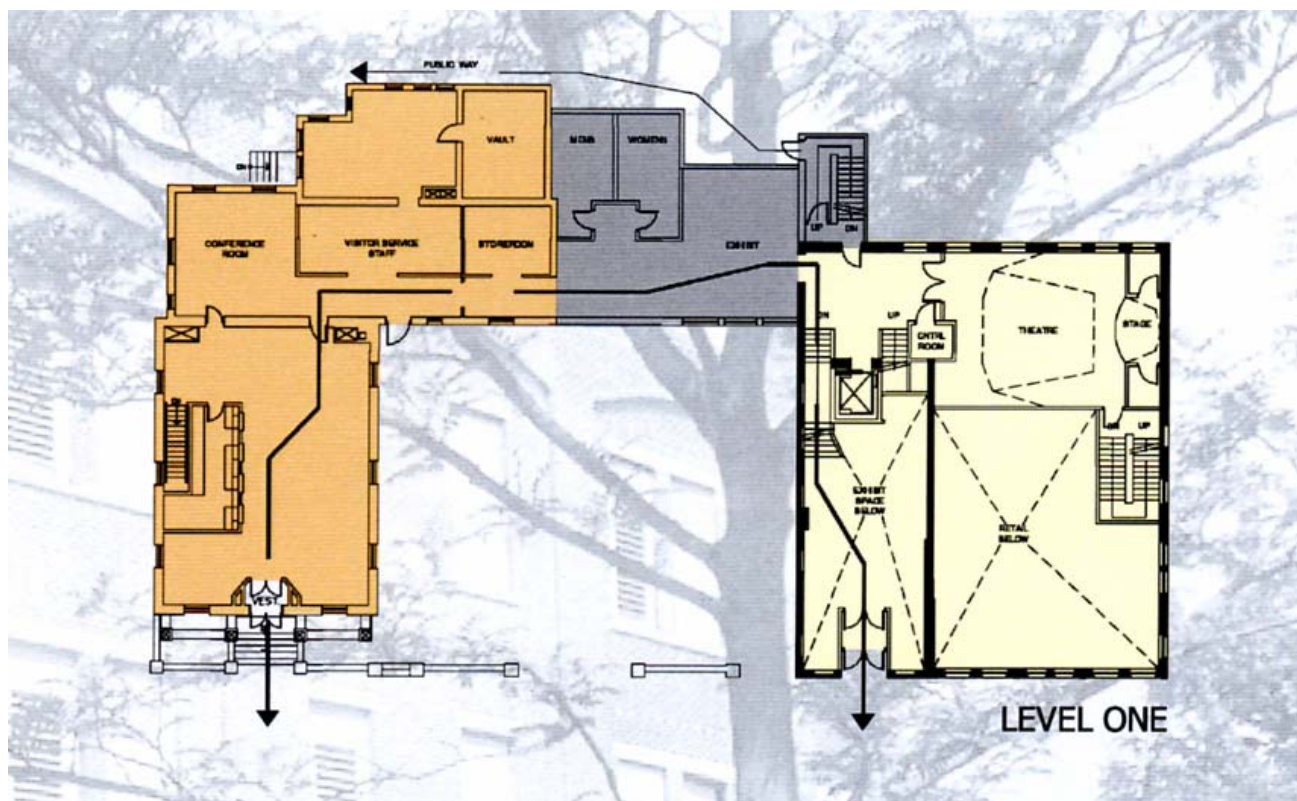
**Deficit - \$787,100 in annual operating funds  
and 8.5 staff**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**In FY 2004, we will complete the planning for the Corson Building education and program center and begin developing construction documents...**





# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



...install 42 new wayside interpretive panels and 10 new orientation panels beginning in the spring...

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## New Bedford Lights the World

Candles were a prime product of the early whaling industry. On the corner across the street, the Rodman Candleworks, built about 1810, is one of only two surviving candleworks buildings in New Bedford, once known worldwide for the quality of its spermaceti candles.

The process of making candles from spermaceti—the solid, waxy substance found in a sperm whale's head—was a closely guarded secret when Samuel Rodman learned it. Making a spermaceti candle took from fall to the following summer and involved repeated pressing, congealing, and heating. But before petroleum was discovered, a spermaceti candle was the best candle on the market. It was hard, burned a long time, and its light was bright and white.

The light of a spermaceti candle was so bright that it was used to calibrate the Standard International Candle, a unit of light intensity that was applied when incandescent lightbulbs were introduced in the 19th century. In 1849 there were 19 "candlehouses and oil factories" in New Bedford.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT.  
**GEO. DELANO & CO.,**  
Spermaceti and WHALE OIL,  
SPERMACEITI.  
PATENT AND PLAIN SPERM CANDLES,  
Whale Pressings, Sperm and Whale Oil Soap.  
Office, 140 Front Street, NEW YORK CITY,  
Factory, South Second, Cor. of South Street,  
New Bedford, Mass.

ESTABLISHED 1800.  
**W. A. ROBINSON & CO.,**  
SPERM, WHALE OIL,  
SPERM CANDLES, OIL SOAP, &c.  
Also, Gunpowder, Tobacco, and other articles, by retail, wholesale and from  
No. 10 South Water Street, - - - PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
No. 50 South Water St., NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

**WM. F. POTTER & CO.,**  
WHOLESALE GROCERS,  
Petroleum Oil, Provisions, and Country Produce,  
Union St., corner Front, NEW BEDFORD.

Advertisement for Spermaceti Candles,  
New Bedford city directory 1839-1882

Candle Photo by Tim Schaefer  
Articles and Advertisement Courtesy New Bedford  
Whaling Museum

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Heroes of Fort Wagner

During the Civil War many of the black men who enlisted at a recruiting office near this spot were mustered into Company C of the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Among these recruits was New Bedford's Sergeant William H. Carney.

*Previous to the formation of the colored troops, I had a strong inclination to prepare myself for the ministry; but when the country called for all persons, I could best serve my God by serving my country and my oppressed brothers.* Sergeant William H. Carney, October 19, 1863.

The 54th became famous for their role in the brave but doomed attack on Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina, in 1863. When the regiment's standard-bearer fell, Carney took up the American flag and carried it under fire to the Confederate parapet. Although wounded several times, he returned the colors safely, handing them over with the words, "The old flag never touched the ground, boys."

Company C also included Corporal James Henry Gooding, a former whaler from New Bedford. His dispatches to the *New Bedford Mercury* gave local people news of the 54th Regiment and helped the recruitment effort. Gooding was captured in Florida at the battle of Olustee in February 1864 and died later that year in Georgia's infamous Andersonville Prison.

At Fort Wagner, South Carolina, Carney had been wounded twice but advanced to the fort's parapet and planted the regiment's flag there. When the 54th retreated, Carney—"creeping on one knee," a witness said—carried the flag back to one of his regiment's officers.

Sergeant William H. Carney with the Regiment's American flag.

Storming Fort Wagner  
Lithograph by Kettie and Allison, (then  
Carney & Allison), New Bedford (National Park Service)

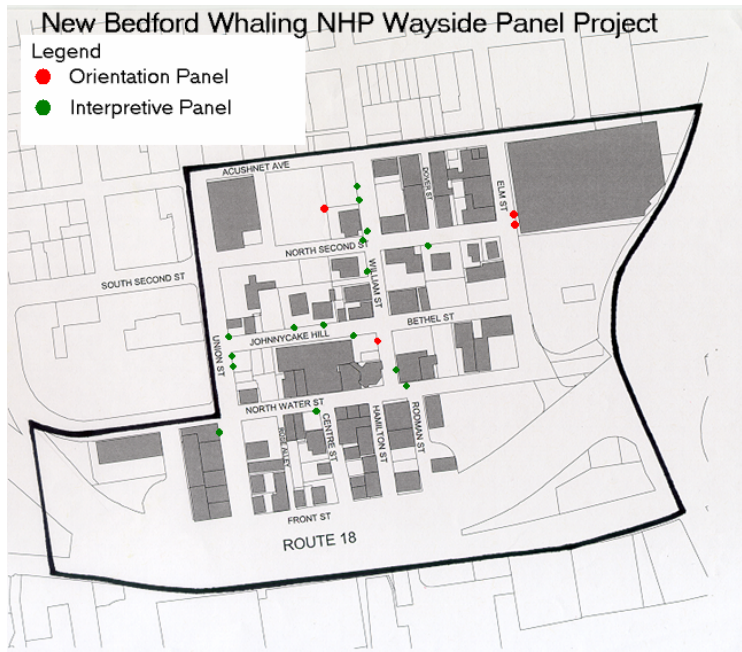
# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## New Bedford Whaling NHP Wayside Panel Project

### Legend

- Orientation Panel
- Interpretive Panel



## Saving Mariners' Souls

After months at sea, many whaling men were unable to resist the temptations of this port city. In 1834, the New Bedford Port Society for the Moral Improvement of Seamen opened this mariners' chapel "to protect the rights and interests of Seamen, and to furnish them with...moral, intellectual and religious instruction."

By supplying Bibles and nondenominational services, the Bethel chapel hoped to combat all those influences to which the port's mariners fell prey—liquor, licentiousness, and dishonest merchants. A survey in 1852 found 37 "liquor shops" and 21 "houses of ill repute" in this ward alone.



Herman Melville visited the Seamen's Bethel before departing on the whaling ship *Acushnet* in 1841. Ten years later, in *Moby-Dick*, he described the chapel's "sombre...modern air" and the chapel's walls for those who lost their lives at sea.



## Slavery Opposed

In the late 1700s New Bedford's first Congregational Church (illustrated here) stood diagonally across the street at the corner of William and Purchase streets. In 1838 the church became Liberty Hall. Its first floor was converted into shops and its upper floors became an auditorium and meeting rooms. Within these upper rooms, prominent abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison spoke to approving New Bedford audiences for the abolishment of slavery.

With the passage of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law and the successful rescue-escape of runaway slave Shadrach Minkins from a Boston courtroom in 1851, New Bedford abolitionists remained alert. They feared authorities would try to capture fugitive slaves in refuge here. Upon spotting a strange vessel in the city's harbor, Rodney French rang Liberty Hall's bell to warn fugitives. Though the raid never occurred, French and the bell became legendary.



*The only true remedy for the extension of slavery, is the immediate abolition of slavery.*

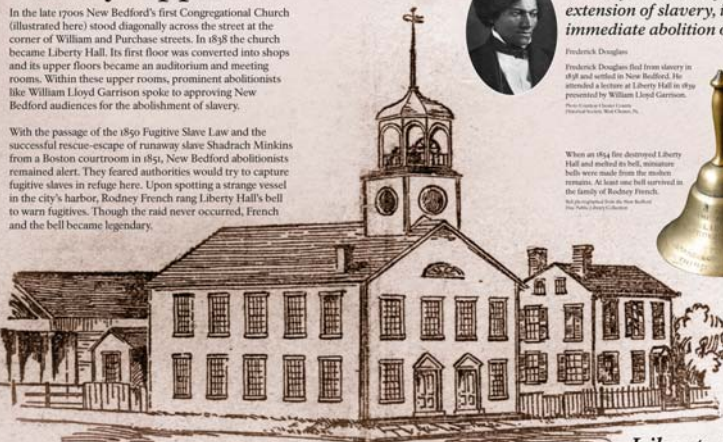
Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass fled from slavery in 1838 and settled in New Bedford. He attended a lecture at Liberty Hall in 1840 presented by William Lloyd Garrison.

Historical Society, New Bedford, MA

When an 1844 fire destroyed Liberty Hall and melted its bell, miniature bells were made from the molten remains. At least one bell survived in the family of Rodney French.

Historical Society, New Bedford, MA



Liberty Hall



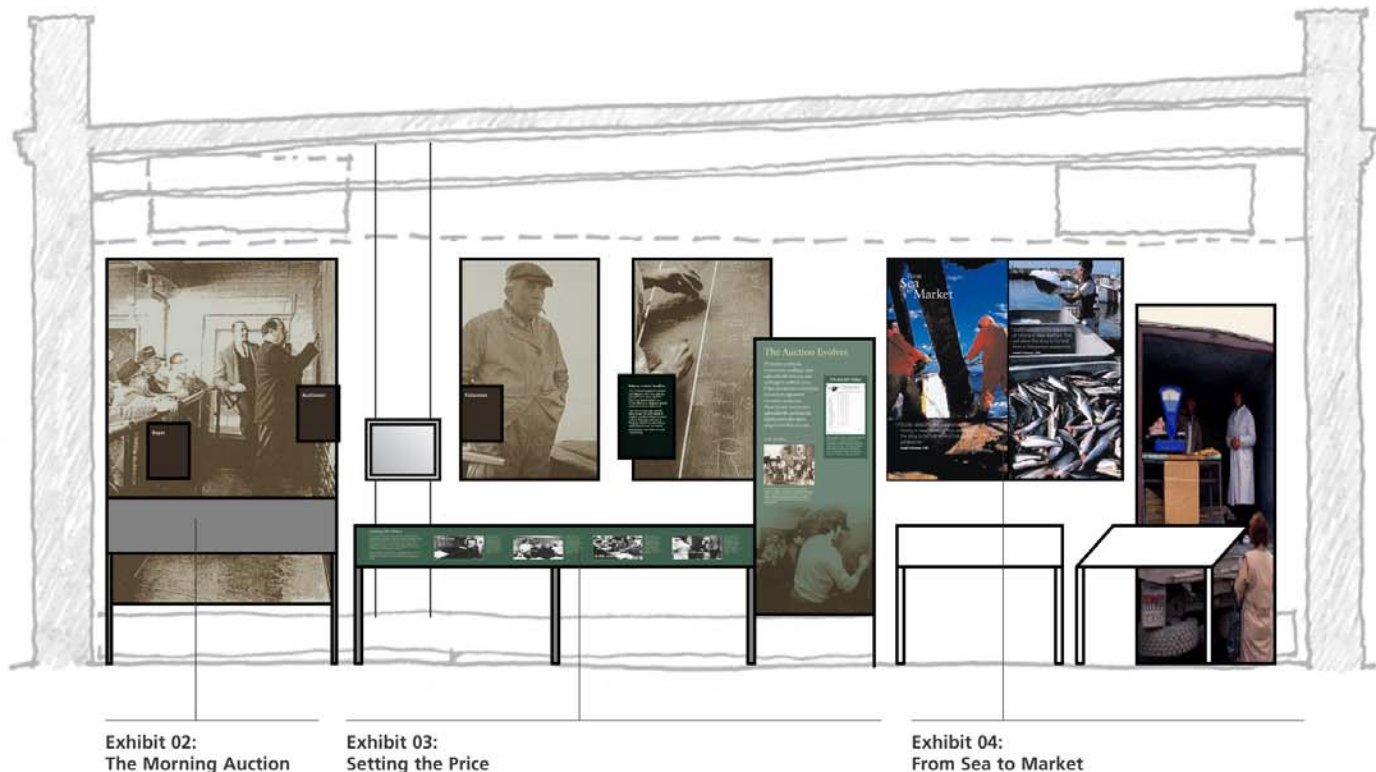
# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...Open a new exhibit at the Waterfront Visitor Center in time for the summer season...**

## West Elevation

The west wall of the room is the primary area of exhibit content. The wall-mounted, historic chalkboard forms the backdrop for this entire exhibit area.

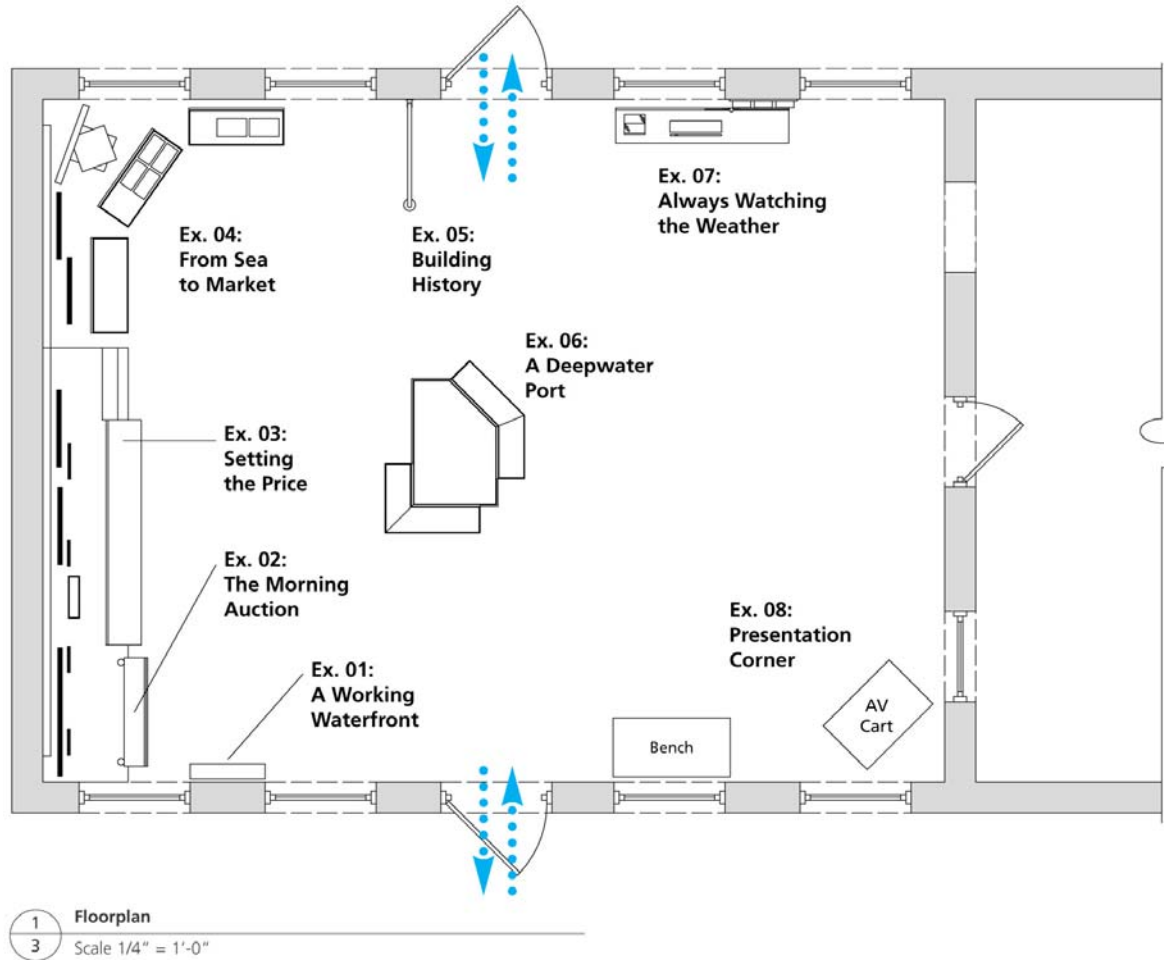


# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## Floorplan

The exhibition space is divided into fixed exhibit areas (Exhibits 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, and 07) and two moveable ones (Exhibits 06, and 08)

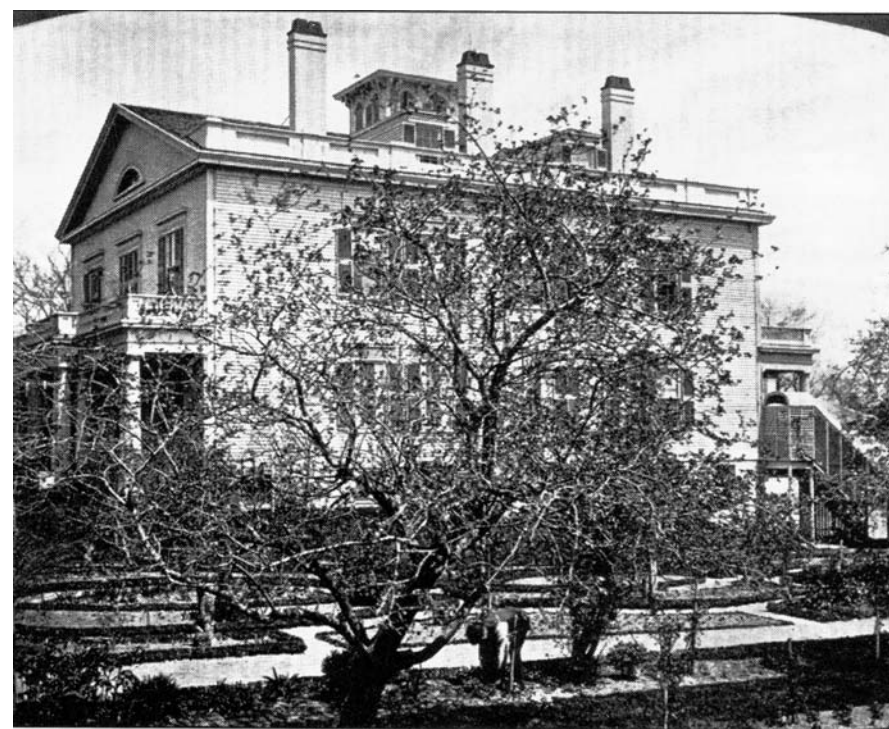




# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...Undertake a Historic Furnishings Report for the Rotch-Jones Duff House in league with the NPS Northeast Museum Service Center...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...Continue to provide assistance on projects with  
the Inupiat Heritage Center...**



**...Work with the US Department of Agriculture and local  
partners on ongoing projects with the Azores, Portugal...**



# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



**...support collaborative programming in New Bedford that enhances visitor understanding and enjoyment...**



**...Continue to provide technical assistance to park partners and to strive for excellence – with your help.**

# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



The National Park Service cares for special place set aside by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



**Thank you!**